



# The Harbinger

Newsletter of the  
Illinois Native Plant Society

FALL 2018  
Vol. 35, No. 3

*"...dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois."*



The best thing about Autumn is seeing the beautiful colored leaves such as this pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), Edwards County, Illinois. Photo: Roger Beadles.

## Editorial

I hope everyone has been enjoying *The Harbinger*! I want to extend my utmost gratitude to all our contributors. As always, if anyone has something to contribute or an idea for an article, please contact me. There will be one more issue produced this year. Enjoy the issue! Christopher David Benda.

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## **Message from the President**



Although there are still some blooming asters and goldenrods, once again we are nearing the end of the growing season. A time to wrap up projects for the year and begin brainstorming cool things to do in the coming year.

In the last issue of *The Harbinger*, I mentioned my recent “Loop around Lake Superior” trip with fellow botanists from around the Midwest and Ontario. I had hoped to see 50 to 75 Illinois state-listed species around the loop but was pleasantly surprised to see many new “lifer” plants and close to 100 of our Illinois rare plants. That’s nearly 1/3 of all of the rare plant species in Illinois in just over one week!

This year in Illinois, I have especially been focused on rare plants, as this is the time of our 5-year list review for Illinois rare plant species. The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (IESPB), ably led by botanist representatives, Dr. Janice Coons and Dr. Jeremie Fant, have already held two meetings this year. At the first meeting, held at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign/Urbana, we discussed central and northwest Illinois rare plants, while at the second meeting, held at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, we discussed northeast Illinois rare plants. Just one more meeting to go to discuss the southern Illinois rare plant species.

The rare plant committee, made up of experienced botanists from around Illinois, is charged with going through the list of Illinois rare plants and, using the most current data available, determining if changes are needed. I’m very happy to report that three current INPS board members (Chris Benda, Susanne Masi, and I) continue to serve on this 11-person committee. One exciting development from this work is interest from the IESPB and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in INPS developing an Illinois Watch List for plants. This “Watch List” will include plants that are rare in the state, but perhaps not rare enough to warrant state protection. Or possibly species about which we need further information to make an educated and sound decision. This is where you, the members of INPS, will be vitally important. While we are in the initial stages of developing the list, we hope to make this an engaging citizen science project for our membership and all interested botanists and naturalists throughout Illinois.

I look forward to sharing more about this project in the future. Until then, stay tuned for updates posted on the INPS website (<https://ill-inps.org/>).

Happy trails,

Paul Marcum

INPS President

## INPS Chapters

### **NORTHEAST CHAPTER Chicago**

Daniel Lopez (President)  
[northeast.inps@gmail.com](mailto:northeast.inps@gmail.com)

### **QUAD CITIES CHAPTER Rock Island**

Bo Dziadyk (President)  
[bohndandziadyk@augustana.edu](mailto:bohndandziadyk@augustana.edu)

### **GRAND PRAIRIE CHAPTER Bloomington/Normal**

Joe Armstrong (President)  
[jearmstr@ilstu.edu](mailto:jearmstr@ilstu.edu)

**FOREST GLEN CHAPTER  
Champaign/Urbana, Danville**  
Connie Cunningham (President)  
[conniejcunningham@gmail.com](mailto:conniejcunningham@gmail.com)

**KANKAKEE TORRENT  
CHAPTER - Bourbonnais**  
Floyd Catchpole (President)  
[fcatchpole@comcast.net](mailto:fcatchpole@comcast.net)

**CENTRAL CHAPTER  
Springfield**  
Trish Quintenz (President)  
[trishquintenz@gmail.com](mailto:trishquintenz@gmail.com)

### **SOUTHERN CHAPTER Carbondale**

Chris Benda (President)  
[southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com)

Check out the [Illinois Native Plant Society Events Calendar](#) for Chapter meetings and workshops.

## Welcome New Members

### **Central Chapter**

Jared Gorrell  
Ellie Harms  
Elaine Moran

### **Grand Prairie Chapter**

Erica Taylor

### **Southern Chapter**

Jacob Chisausky

### **Forest Glen Chapter**

Elsa de Becker

### **Kankakee Torrent Chapter**

### **Northeast Chapter**

### **Quad Cities Chapter**

## INPS News

### **2019 INPS Research Grant Awards**

**Application deadline is January 31, 2019. Awards will be announced March 31, 2019.**

The Illinois Native Plant Society Research Fund supports scientific research that enhances the conservation of Illinois native plants and ecosystems. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$1,500, and are intended for one-year projects. For information about eligibility, priority, and other details, please consult the INPS Grants webpage: <https://ill-inps.org/2019-research-grants/>.

### **New Opportunity to Donate to the INPS Research Grants Program**

INPS is introducing a new opportunity to donate in support of exciting plant research projects by graduate students, faculty advisors, land managers, and citizen scientists who are funded through the Research Grants Program! In 2018 nine young researchers are hard at work implementing projects supported by INPS (see [INPS 2018 Research Grants Awarded](#)). This program helps secure the future of botanical inquiry in Illinois and your



gift is critical and welcome! Now you can choose to add an extra donation to the INPS Research Grants Program when you join or renew your INPS membership. You can also make a donation to the Research Grants Program at any time on the [Donation webpage](#).

## Chapter News

### Flora of the Illinois Coastal Plain

Chris Benda, Southern chapter president and past president of the state INPS Board, gave a talk on the Flora of the Illinois Coastal Plain this fall to the Southern chapter of INPS and produced this collage of rare wildflowers of the Illinois Coastal Plain.



Top left to right: blue jasmine (*Clematis crispa*), whorled pogonia orchid (*Isotria verticillata*), silverbells (*Halesia tetraptera*); Bottom left to right: tubercles orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *flava*), copper iris (*Iris fulva*), meadow beauty (*Rhexia mariana*), one-flowered Hydrolea (*Hydrolea uniflora*).

### Central Chapter Holiday Dinner

When: Thursday, December 13th at 6 PM

Where: Maldaner's Restaurant, 222 S. 6th Street, Springfield

Cost per member \$15.00/each. Each member can bring one guest at that price; additional guests \$25/each.

Please RSVP to Trish Quintenz at [trishquintenz@gmail.com](mailto:trishquintenz@gmail.com), 217-971-1615, or [online here](#).

The buffet meal will include roast beef with Madeira wine sauce, vegetable lasagna, mashed potatoes, two choices of vegetables, mixed green salad, bread and butter, apple crisp with ice cream and caramel sauce, and soda, coffee, and tea.



## Southern Chapter Holiday Dinner & Award Ceremony

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When: December 1st at 1 PM, Dinner at 2 PM

Where: Scratch Brewing Company, Ava, Illinois

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at this link <https://ill-inps.org/2018-southern-chapter-holiday-dinner-and-award-ceremony/>.

Please join the Southern Chapter of the INPS for our 2018 Holiday Dinner and Awards Ceremony. All proceeds from the dinner will benefit our conservation fund, which will be dedicated toward conservation projects in southern Illinois. This year's Conservation Award recipient is Sonja Lallemand, our outgoing chapter treasurer, for her efforts in creating and sustaining the Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium, as well as her service to INPS.

## Central Chapter Offers Videos of Presentations

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The Central chapter is posting presentations made at chapter meetings on Vimeo. posted on Vimeo. Take a look at this approximately 1.5-hour educational presentation by Eric Ulaszek, Illinois Natural History Survey Botanist aiming to “relieve Cyperaceae anxiety” and titled “An Introduction to the Sedge Family (Cyperaceae) in Illinois: An overlooked group of (mostly) native plants.” <https://vimeo.com/292978185>. Links to additional Central chapter presentations are shown on the Vimeo page or are available at <https://ill-inps.org/central-chapter-videos/>.

## Henry Barkhausen of Lake Forest: Conservationist

Henry Noyes Barkhausen—conservationist, sailor, and authority on Great Lakes maritime history—died peacefully on October 6th at age 103 at his Lake Forest, Illinois home.

Henry was a dedicated conservationist, serving in the early 1970s as the Director of the Illinois Department of Conservation, and 45 years thereafter as a trustee, chairman, and life trustee of the Illinois Nature Conservancy. His most noted achievement was his pivotal role in preserving and helping to restore the Cache River Wetlands in southernmost Illinois, a wetland region of international significance on which federal and state and private conservation organizations have collaborated and which boasts the greatest biodiversity found in Illinois. That the Cache River Wetlands visitor center and natural history museum bears his name is a testament to his efforts.



Henry was also well recognized and admired by the sailing community in Little Traverse Bay, Michigan and beyond. His greatest avocational interest was sailing wooden, gaff-rigged boats and a fascination with the history of commercial sailing vessels on the Great Lakes. He and his wife, Alice, in their younger and older years, and with their children in between, cruised the northern Great Lakes—Michigan, Huron, and occasionally the uninhabited north shore of Lake Superior—for close to 80 years, with Harbor Springs, MI as their home port for most of this time. Henry also built a number of wooden boats, beginning in the basement of their Lake



Forest home, continuing with a shop in a barn on their Southern Illinois farm where they lived most of the year for over 30 years, and concluding with the sailing dinghy “Final Effort,” which he finished at age 100.

Henry was blessed with exceptional health, a sharp mind and memory, and unfailing taste buds until the last—all of which he used to good ends: continuing to give Alice a fulfilling and enjoyable life after she suffered a serious stroke eleven years ago, actively promoting his special causes, editing his memoirs that he began writing at age 101, and savoring every meal and vodka martini.

Henry is survived by Alice, with whom he shared a remarkable 77 years, and his five children: Sarah (Ned) Rossiter of Concord, MA; Joan (David) Grubin of New York City; Henry (Lele) of Winnetka; David (Sue) of Lake Bluff; and John (Deborah) of Warren, VT, as well as eleven grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. His remains will be buried with his parents and sisters in the Friendship Township Cemetery outside Harbor Springs, MI. A service will be held at their Lake Forest Place senior residence on December 8th.

## Tales from Braidwood Savanna: An Introduction

By Floyd Catchpole.

After 17 years of observing and managing the natural communities and plants of Braidwood Savanna Area in Will County, Illinois, I have come to recognize that the flora is distinctly different from Kankakee Sands Area near Indiana and worthy of a series of articles. This first article is an overview of the area.

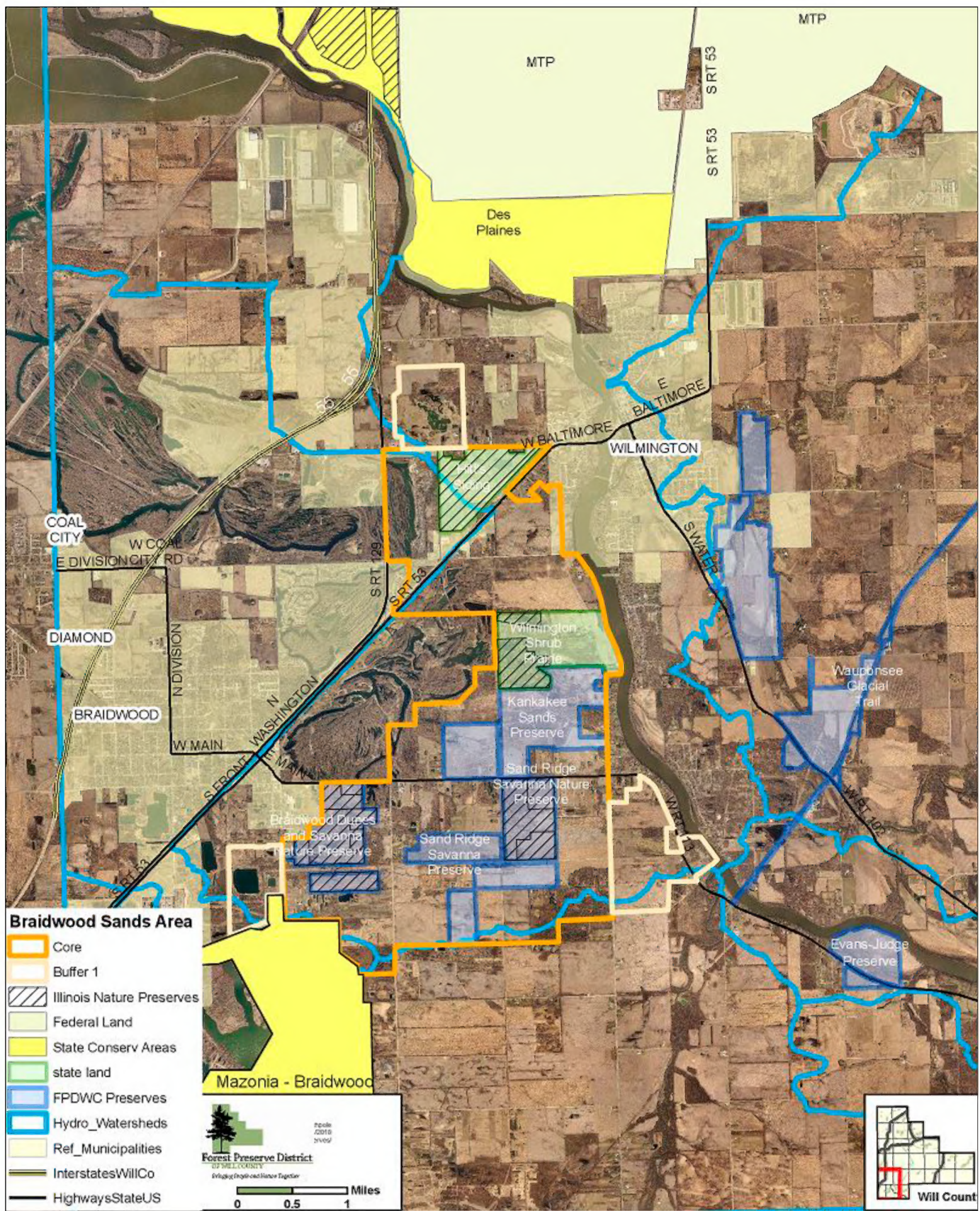
Savannas once lay between the Great Plains’ Tallgrass Prairie and the Eastern Deciduous Forest in a great ribbon hundreds of miles wide in places. Fires once roared through the prairies and slammed into the timber creating areas of scattered trees and sunny, open groves interspersed with prairie and wetland. Nearly annual fires created a stunningly beautiful landscape with high species diversity.

Illinois’ savannas are largely gone, but the Kankakee Sands Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division contains two opportunities to protect the entirety of the remaining savanna ecosystem. These areas are extraordinary in that high-quality remnants of all their original communities remain embedded in a matrix of more degraded areas and agricultural fields.

The better known area is commonly called **Kankakee Sands**, where the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Friends of the Kankakee, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDNR) are working to protect and restore a large savanna from Iroquois County Conservation Area to the dune fields of Pembroke, with a separate unit in the Momence Wetlands along the Kankakee River and additional lands in Indiana. The Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area (KNWR) acts as filler to tie together already-protected lands in both Illinois and Indiana. Kankakee Sands is on the boundary between the Grand Prairie and the Grand Marsh of the Kankakee, which distinctly influences the flora by introducing many eastern species.

**Braidwood Savanna Location Map on proceeding page.**







The other area is **Braidwood Savanna**, a >6,000-acre area between the 3,650-acre Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area on the south and the 24,000-acre Des Plaines Conservation Area / Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie complex on the north. The Kankakee River is to the north and east, with some shoreline protected, while extensive strip-mined land lies to the west. Currently, 2,110 acres (about 33%) of Braidwood Savanna is protected by the IDNR, Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC), and a FPDWC management agreement with ComEd. Braidwood Savanna contains four Illinois Nature Preserves totaling 945 acres and is completely within the Grand Prairie. See map on page 8.

Braidwood Savanna is perhaps the second-most diverse inland sand area in Illinois. Almost evenly divided between upland and wetland habitats, the area has exceptional resilience, supporting remnant sand communities that include river, small streams, vernal pool, shrub swamp, marsh, sedge meadow, wet prairie, sand seeps, riparian seeps, wet-mesic prairie, shrub prairie, mesic prairie, mesic savanna, dry-mesic sand prairie, and dry-mesic savanna. This diverse mosaic protects over 750 native plant species (over 1/3 of all native plant species in the 22-county Chicago Wilderness Region), and 23 State Endangered or Threatened species (18 plants, 2 turtles, 2 birds, and 1 insect).



Michigan lily (*Lilium michiganense*).  
Photo by Floyd Catchpole.

Coming in the next *Harbinger*: Braidwood Savanna Chapter 1. Reading A Fractured Landscape.

*Floyd Catchpole has been the Land Management Program Coordinator for the Forest Preserve District of Will County, Illinois (FPDWC) since 2007 and a member of INPS since 1988. In 2011, the FPDWC began a multimillion dollar restoration effort in this area that Floyd has been heavily involved in.*

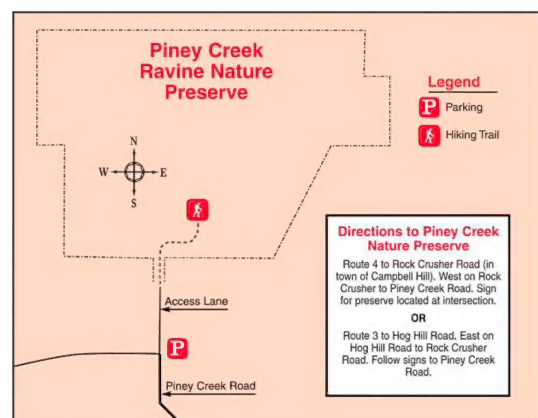
## Natural Area Profile: Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve

*This is a regular feature that profiles natural areas listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI sites).*

Story and Photos by Nick Seaton.

If you're wanting to get a good hike in over the weekend, an interesting place to check off the list is the 198-acre Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve in Randolph County. This area is unique in that it has ancient petroglyphs and pictographs that are protected by cliff overhangs and that were used in religious ceremonies by natives. The property also has one of the two known native populations of shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) in the state and other threatened plant populations.

The trails are well marked and while hiking in you come to appreciate the beauty of the area as you descend into the ravine. The hills are scattered with oak and hickory species in the upland portions of the landscape and upon inspection one finds that the area has been relatively uninvaded by non-native species. The three-mile loop trail to the north of the petroglyphs takes you into steep upland woods that overlook the creek below. The vantage point is great from



The coordinates to the property are  
N: 37.890 W: -89.638.



above in the fall and there is no wonder that this was a special place to natives. Another option separate from the trail is to continue walking along the creek which has interesting geology and non-vascular plants scattered throughout. This property also has a fantastic spring wildflower display that shouldn't be missed.

Starting the day at the Preserve, expect to spend about 3-5 hours hiking and botanizing.



*Nick Seaton is the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Coordinator and a graduate student in the Plant Biology Department at Southern Illinois University.*

## Botany Humor



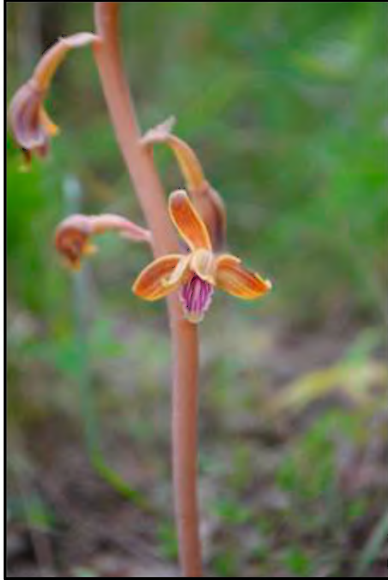
Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*) impersonating Don King. 🤪



## Plant Profile: Crested Coralroot Orchid

By Christopher David Benda.

This unusual plant in the Orchid family (Orchidaceae) is called crested coralroot orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*). The genus name “*Hexalectris*” is Greek and means “six cock,” referring to the six raised ridges on the lip that resemble a rooster’s crest. The species name “*spicata*” refers to the flowers being produced on a spike. It is called crested coralroot orchid because of the rhizomatous nature of the species in which the twisted roots look like corals.



**Crested Coralroot Orchid**  
(*Hexalectris spicata*). Photo by  
Chris Benda.

This orchid is saprophytic, meaning it lives off fungi and decaying organic matter. It contains no chlorophyll and is therefore not green, so it cannot photosynthesize. Because of this, there is no need to produce leaves. This dubious lifestyle might contribute to the plant ranging in size from six inches tall to over eighteen inches tall, but it is consistently larger than the true coralroot orchid genus *Corallorhiza*.

The flowering stems of this summer bloomer are light brown and easily overlooked in the tall grass or leaf litter. The subtle flowers reveal spectacular beauty when closely examined. Three curved sepals streaked with purple spread horizontally and vertically. Two petals are similar, and the lowest petal, the lip, is the most striking feature of the flower, with a deep, striped, magenta hue. Flowers are thought to be pollinated by bumblebees.

This is a plant of calcareous, well-drained areas like limestone glades and oak-hickory woodlands. It is uncommon in the southeastern portion of the United States and is listed as endangered or threatened in many states where it occurs.

### For More Information

- [PLANTS Profile - \*Hexalectris spicata\*, crested coralroot orchid](#)
- [See Wildflower Viewing Area, War Fork and Steer Fork at Turkey Foot](#)

Previously published on the US Forest Service Plant of the Week webpage at [https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/hexalectris\\_spicata.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/hexalectris_spicata.shtml).

## A Valuable Native Plant: American Ginseng

By Ryan Pankau.

American ginseng is native to Illinois, although harvesting pressure has caused serious declines in native populations, leading to protection under Illinois law.

This week marks the halfway point for the 2018 Illinois ginseng harvesting season, which runs from the first Saturday in September through Nov. 1. Did you even know that ginseng grows in Illinois, let alone the fact that there is a regulated harvest of this valuable native plant?



American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is native to deciduous forests across much of the eastern United States and Canada. It thrives on sites with healthy, intact forested ecosystems, typically occurring on north-facing slopes that commonly have more fertile soils and more mesic conditions.



American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). Photo by Chris Benda.

This once-abundant native plant is still distributed across Illinois but is relatively uncommon today among our forest understories.

A major cause of ginseng decline is overharvesting by humans, thus the regulated harvesting season in Illinois.

It is highly valued in Asian markets for its perceived medicinal qualities and historical significance, often fetching amazingly high values per pound. This opportunity for high profits from a woodland plant has created a big incentive for many to harvest and sell ginseng. Both the harvest and sale of ginseng are currently regulated under Illinois law.

Early records of ginseng use in Asia date back as early as 1 BC in China, where American ginseng's cousin, Asian ginseng (*Panax ginseng*), was widely used as a cure-all-type remedy. Its forked root (resembling the lower portion of the human body) was sought after for its health benefits and most notably its aphrodisiacal properties. Older roots are particularly valued as many believe that the longevity of the root will be transferred to its human consumer.

As early as the 1700s, American ginseng was harvested in the U.S. and shipped to Asian markets to meet growing demand as native populations of the plant in Asia declined from extensive harvest.

By the 1970s, overharvesting in the U.S. reduced native populations to critical levels, causing American ginseng to reach endangered status.

In Illinois, ginseng is a long-lived and slow-growing perennial plant that develops a gnarly, elongated root structure over time. Asian markets consider older roots more valuable as they develop irregular, forked shapes after many years of development in undisturbed forest soils. Mature roots that naturally develop in the wild hold the highest value and cannot be replicated in cultivation. However, a large industry exists for cultivated ginseng (which is not regulated by law) that is primarily used for the many products containing ginseng and marketed as health foods in the US and abroad.

Since the entire plant must be removed to get the root, harvesting has a high impact. The current harvesting season is timed with fruit maturity in the hopes that ginseng plants can produce viable seeds prior to being removed from the forest. The bright red berries produced by ginseng this time of year are hard to miss in Illinois woodlands as few other herbaceous understory plants have similar red fruits in fall.

As an additional conservation measure, Illinois law requires all harvested plants to be 10 years old or older. The rhizome or "root neck" must be attached to the root of any harvested ginseng plant as it allows for easy identification of plant age since a leaf scar is added each year to the vertical rhizome.



In the field, prior to harvest, a mature plant can typically be identified from the number of leaf stalks, or "prongs," it develops. Mature plants (usually 10 years old or older) will have four leaf stalks containing five leaflets each, while younger plants will have fewer leaf stalks present.

Seed production typically begins at the "two-prong" stage of development (commonly 2 to 3 years of age) but may not be substantial until the plant matures to bear four prongs.

It is interesting to me that it can take up to 10 years of development for a ginseng plant to reach full seed production, and this fact underlies the necessity to conserve this species within our Illinois woodlands.

Currently, ginseng harvesting is prohibited on all state and federal lands in Illinois, although poaching is a constant pressure across both public and private lands.

Of the 18 states that regulate ginseng harvest, Illinois has the most stringent law, requiring plants to be 10 years old, while many other states only require 5 years of age. I hope this additional measure can work to conserve our native populations of ginseng.

If you plan to harvest ginseng, please be sure to educate yourself on sustainable harvesting methods so that future generations can enjoy this Illinois native.

*Ryan Pankau is a horticulture educator with the University of Illinois Extension, serving Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion counties.*

Previously published in the Champaign News-Gazette, September 29, 2018: <http://www.news-gazette.com/living/2018-09-29/the-garden-valuable-native-plant.html>.

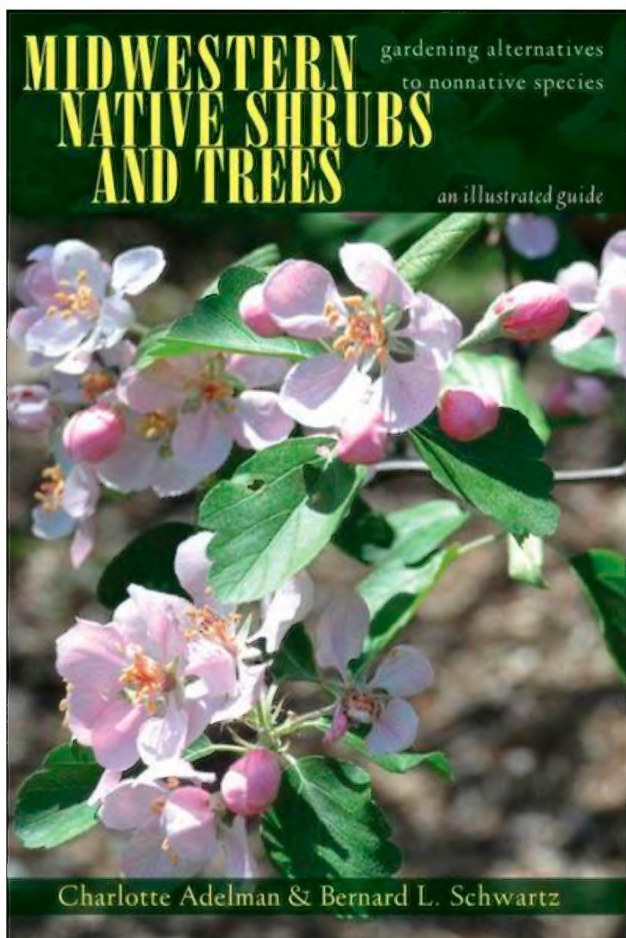
## **Book Review: Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees**

By Sonja Lallemand.

*Midwestern Native Shrubs and Trees: Gardening Alternatives to Nonnative Species: An Illustrated Guide* by Charlotte Adelman & Bernard L. Schwartz, is the newest reference book on native trees and shrubs. Planning and designing a four-season garden with native plants is definitely made easier by this beautifully illustrated volume.

Organized by seasons, the work provides detailed information on the non-native plants as well as the native plants: family, genus, height, spread, ornamental attributes, and cultivation. Replacement of the non-native plant is not always easy if the gardener wishes to safeguard the cultivated look of the garden. Several of the suggestions made for native replacement of non-native shrubs are not always equal in shape or texture. Many of the native tree alternatives are great substitutes especially when they are from the same family, like our fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) which has more attractive blooms than the Chinese fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus*) commonly found in the nurseries. The Nature Notes included for the various trees and shrubs make a great argument for why a native species should be chosen over a non-native: they sustain life. Some of our natives, as host plants, are the only food source for caterpillars of obligatory species of insects. All plants play a role in providing food and shelter, and in our fragmented urban gardens the native trees and shrubs are of vital importance since they beneficially impact the greatest variety of wildlife.





Designing an urban garden requires a bit more research on the plants: size, location, cultivation, and other considerations that are governed by the urban lot. The urban gardeners will find that there are differences in cultivation caused by this specific environment, and not mentioned in the book. My experience has been that, time and time again, native plants in cultivated soil, full of nutrients, more often than not, surpass the expected height and spread of their native habitat, thereby causing some misgivings to the gardener. The authors have purposely kept their advice very broad allowing for general use of this work. However, I should mention that some of our native plants can become garden thugs: elderberry, buttonbush, red osier dogwood, bald cypress, sweetgum tree, to name a few, because of their growth habits or their fruits, so they should be used judiciously. Although the authors are not in favor of *nativars*—some of them occurred by chance in the nursery or found in nature by overzealous plant lovers—the parentage is therefore incomplete and not necessarily man-made, and the trend continues in the industry to improve the “look” of our native plants. One such plant for us in southern Illinois continues to be celebrated and graces our yards: ‘Annabelle’ hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* ‘Annabelle’), widely planted and cultivated.

The book’s Selected Bibliography and Resources is an added bonus for those who are just starting to incorporate native plants, or restoring habitats. This volume makes a great addition to a plant lover’s reference library and those who wish to attract mammals and insects to their environment.

*Sonja Lallemand is a retired Horticulture Expert with the University of Illinois Extension and Treasurer of the INPS Southern chapter.*

## Web Links

### The Extinction of Meaning

Take a look at a thoughtful article on the website *Medium* by writer and biologist Bryan Pfeiffer about one of the most imperiled animals in North America. The Poweshiek skipperling is a saffron-yellow butterfly no bigger than your thumbnail. It once flew in untold numbers across prairies from Michigan to Manitoba but has now vanished from more than 90 percent of its known sites. Americans know little of the spectacular natural diversity surrounding us; most of us cannot identify what’s singing or croaking or buzzing in our own backyards. What good is an endangered butterfly if it doesn’t tweet or turn a profit? Read more at <https://medium.com/s/story/the-extinction-of-meaning-1d8d495f5f75>.




## TWI's second-ever BioBlitz finds nearly 900 species


On August 3 and 4, participants in the Wetlands Initiative's second-ever Dixon Refuge BioBlitz made biodiversity history by finding and identifying 883 species of living things over two days—far exceeding the final tally of 675 species from our first BioBlitz in 2015. More citizen scientists and use of the iNaturalist app both contributed to the higher number of species found and identified. Read the story at <http://www.wetlands-initiative.org/featured-news/2018-bioblitz>.

## Invasive Species News

### FACT SHEET:




## Japanese Stiltgrass Hidden Reproduction

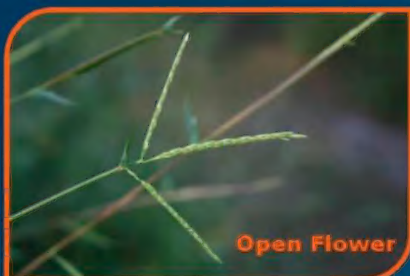


Stiltgrass has two kinds of flowers.

In addition to the open flowers that occur at the top of the plant, stiltgrass also has closed flowers, called **cleistogamous**, that occur on short spurs from axils low down on the plant

These closed flowers **self-fertilize**, producing viable seed that can go unnoticed





Open Flower

### By the Numbers

16,000	One study in Southern Illinois found stiltgrass growing in densities of over 16,000 seedlings per square meter
A single tiller of stiltgrass can produce up to 1,000 seeds	1,000
5	Seeds can live in the soil for up to five years

Twitter @uieforestry  
Instagram.com/uieforestry  
Facebook.com/IllinoisExtensionForestry



## Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> North American Prairie Conference

Illinois is called the "prairie state" apparently because it was the first state European settlers encountered that had extensive areas of tallgrass prairie. In the early 1800's, 60% (22,000,000 acres) of the state had prairie vegetation, but today only 2,200 acres of high quality prairie remain and most of the remnants are less than 12 acres. Nearly the entire prairie was converted to agriculture.

The motto for the conference emphasizes that prairies in Illinois range from small remnants in pioneer cemeteries, that were never plowed and are the best representatives of historic prairie vegetation in Illinois, to landscape scale prairie restorations of 1,000s of acres, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (US Forest Service) and the Nachusa Grasslands (The Nature Conservancy).

The Conference consisted of Field Trips, Contributed Oral Presentations, Posters, Breakout Discussion Groups, Plenary Speakers, and two Invited Oral Presentation Sessions on Landscape Scale Restorations and Grassland Birds. A wide range of topics were considered including prairie restorations and reconstructions, fire effects on grassland birds, prairie insects and other invertebrates, management methods including patch burn grazing, fire season and frequency, prairie mutualists and parasites, pollination, urban prairies, and seeds of prairie plants.

The Proceedings of the 24th North American Prairie Conference are available at Illinois State Universities' digital repository at ISU ReD: Research and eData. This online archive preserves, promotes, and provides open access to the proceedings. The first file contains the complete proceedings (Pages 1-190). The file includes information about conference sponsors, exhibitors, acknowledgement of persons who contributed time and effort to organize the conference, awards for student posters and oral presentations, field trips, plenary speakers, abstracts of oral papers and posters, and breakout discussion groups. The table of contents and 16 submitted papers follow. This file is 13.6 MB.

In addition, each of submitted papers follow in a separate file. All of the files can be downloaded.

The URL for the ISU ReD is <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/napc/>

## 25<sup>th</sup> North American Prairie Conference

The 25th North American Prairie Conference will be held in Houston, Texas, June 2-5, 2019. More information is available at <http://www.northamericanprairie.org/>.

The 2019 North American Prairie Conference's homebase will be the fascinating and highly imperiled coastal prairie. Greater Houston is in the midst of a coastal prairie revival, with pristine sites being conserved, prairies being restored, and even urban 'pocket prairies' popping up in the heart of the city.





ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 271

Carbondale, IL 62903

[illinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisplants@gmail.com)

[www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)



Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) in bloom in October. Photo: Bill Valentine.

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